



Ontario Catholic School  
Trustees' Association

Box 2064, Suite 1804  
20 Eglinton Avenue West  
Toronto, Ontario M4R 1K8  
T. 416.932.9460 F. 416.932.9459  
[ocsta@ocsta.on.ca](mailto:ocsta@ocsta.on.ca) [www.ocsta.on.ca](http://www.ocsta.on.ca)

Patrick J. Daly, *President*  
Michael Bellmore, *Vice President*  
Nick Milanetti, *Executive Director*

February 22, 2024

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Chairpersons & Directors of Education  
- All Catholic District School Boards

**FROM:** Patrick J. Daly, President

**SUBJECT:** **Catholic Education Week – May 5 – May 10, 2024**  
**Catholic Education: *We are called to love***  
**L'éducation catholique: *Appelés à aimer***

*“If we love one another, God lives in us.” (1 John 4:12)*

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As you know, each year, the Catholic community of Ontario engages in a week-long celebration of the distinct identity and significant contributions of Catholic education during Catholic Education Week. This year's celebration is entitled, “Catholic Education: *We are called to love*” and will take place during the week of May 5 – May 10.

The theme for Catholic Education Week 2024 was inspired by the following considerations:

- With joyful anticipation of the Jubilee Year of 2025, we are inspired by Pope Francis announcing the theme of “*Pilgrims of Hope.*” With open hearts of love, we can continue to “*fan the flame of hope*” for a bright future.
- On the fifth anniversary of Renewing the Promise, we celebrate that Catholic Education is centred on our Christian call to love. This love permeates how we live in the world and as we act with love, we build a better future. As Pope Francis stated in 2023, “*He wants us to be artisans of a new history, weavers of hope, builders of the future, peacemakers.*”
- The theme of the synod, “*Enlarge the Space of Your Tent,*” invites us to listen in love, to be a healing presence to one another and to strengthen relationships.
- In his visit to Canada last summer, Pope Francis gave us hope for our continued work for Truth and Reconciliation. Through prayer and a commitment to love, stronger bonds are forming and a new way forward is emerging.
- Catholic Education Week comes at the same time as Mental Health Awareness Week. Through love and compassion, we continue to support each other's wellbeing. God is love and we are always called to live out this love.
- In our continued work for Equity and Inclusion in Catholic schools, a focus on love reminds us that all God's children are loved unconditionally.

I would like to highlight several points leading up to Catholic Education Week 2024:

- The CEW theme song has been posted on the OCSTA website. Schools and boards can download this copy for their CEW activities.
- The CEW poster has been sent to all Catholic District School Boards for distribution to your schools.
- All CEW materials are posted on our website at: [www.goodnewsforall.ca](http://www.goodnewsforall.ca).
- A Catholic Education Week Eucharistic celebration will be held on Wednesday, May 8, 2024. The mass will be livestreamed.

Attached please find a copy of the CEW Resource Kit as well as posters... 2 for your board office and 1 poster for each Catholic school.

I would like to express deep appreciation to Anne O'Brien, Director of Catholic Education, and all members of the OCSTA Catholic Education Week Committee for their vision and efforts developing the valuable 2024 materials. Please do not hesitate to contact myself or Anne O'Brien – [aobrien@ocsta.on.ca](mailto:aobrien@ocsta.on.ca) if you have further questions.

On behalf of the OCSTA Board of Directors, I would like to thank each of you and the school systems you lead for all you do to celebrate and promote the precious gift of publicly funded Catholic education and for our shared commitment to “place Christ and the teachings of the Catholic Church at the centre” of students’ learning experiences.

